



Flathead Basin Commission

655 Timberwolf Parkway
Kalispell, Montana 59901
flatheadbasincommission.org

Thompson Smith
Chair

Caryn Miske, Executive Director
406-240-3453
cmiske@mt.gov

Tim Baker, Natural Resources Advisor
Office of the Governor

Tom Bell, Regional Manager
British Columbia Liaison
Ministry of Environment, Canada

Susan Brueggeman, Director
Lake County Environmental
Health Department

Chas Cartwright
Governor Appointed Member
Columbia Falls, MT

Jasmine Courville-Brown
Governor Appointed Member
Ronan, MT

Julie Dalsoglio, Office Director
Region 8, U.S. EPA

Steve Frye, Area Manager
Montana DNRC
Northwest Land Office

Kate Hunt
Governor Appointed Member
Creston, MT

Rich Janssen, Department Head
Division of Environmental Protection
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Jon H. Jourdonnais, Manager
Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Pacific Power & Light

Gary Krueger
Flathead County Commissioner

Ray Beck, Deputy Director
Montana DNRC

George Mathias, Administrator
Montana DEQ

Jan Metzmaker
Governor Appointed Member
Whitefish, MT

Jeff Mow, Superintendent
Glacier National Park

Dennis Philmon, Superintendent
Hungry Horse Dam
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Jack Potter
Governor Appointed Member
Columbia Falls, MT

Mark D. Reller, Montana Liaison
Bonneville Power Administration

Jim Williams, Supervisor
Montana Dept. of FWP

Jim Simpson, Supervisor
Lake County Conservation List

Dean Sincock
Flathead County Conservation Dist.

Thompson Smith, Chair
Governor Appointed Member
Charlo, MT

Chip Weber, Supervisor
Flathead National Forest

May 5, 2014

Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
CERCLA Docket Office (Mail Code – 5350T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) Site Remediation
Dear Docket Coordinator:

The Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) was created in 1983 by the Montana legislature to protect the water quality, natural resources and economic well-being of the Flathead watershed. The 23-member commission represents a broad cross-section of citizens, local, state, tribal, federal and provincial agencies. Given the mission of the FBC, the remediation of the CFAC property is of concern to our organization.

As you know, based on the preliminary site assessment undertaken by the EPA, the pollution present at the CFAC site renders it eligible for the National Priority List (NPL). The benefits of NPL listing include greater availability of funding for site assessment and remediation, and the threat of treble damages in the event that the Primary Responsible Parties (PRPs) refuse to contribute to clean-up efforts.

The City of Columbia Falls, and its residents, have overwhelmingly agreed that site remediation is of the highest importance. The potentially adverse impacts to human health and environmental quality, due to the current levels of contamination in surface waters, groundwater and soils, pose a significant risk to the community. In addition, economic development opportunities that will accrue to the community and the State can best be achieved by undertaking comprehensive remediation efforts. NPL listing would guarantee remediation, whether or not the PRPs opt to voluntarily cooperate. Therefore, the FBC unequivocally supports the NPL listing, and urges EPA to designate the site as such.